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# THE Currents™

Vol. 27 No. 7

Serving the New Orleans Regional Military/DoD Communities

July 2016

## VR-54 Celebrates Change of Command, 25th Anniversary

By Aviation Machinist's Mate  
 3rd Class Arielle Dukes  
 Fleet Logistics Support  
 Squadron 54 Public Affairs

Cmdr. James Lawson relieved Cmdr. Kail Swindle as commanding officer of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 54 during a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans June 4.

Formerly the executive officer of VR-54, Lawson expressed his gratitude to Swindle for leading by example.

"What made Cmdr. Swindle so awesome was the fact that he cares deeply for his Sailors and he has an intrinsic sense of service to others that is engrained in his personality," said Lawson.

Swindle's term as commanding officer of VR-54 was his second tour of duty



**Rebecca Lawson, pins the command ashore pin on her husband, Cmdr. James Lawson, as he accepts command of VR-54 during a change of command ceremony June 4, at NAS JRB New Orleans. The VR-54 squadron also celebrated 25 years as a provider of tactical/heavy lift transport for support to fleet requirements around the world.**  
*Photo by ATAN Douglas Wittman*

with the squadron. He first joined the squadron in 2008, last serving as the squadron's operations officer.

Lawson's personal awards include six Strike/Flight Air Medals, two Navy and Ma-

rine Corps Achievement Medals and a Joint Service Achievement Medal. He has flown the C-12F and C-130T Hercules, the current operational aircraft of VR-54.

The establishment of VR-54 is actually the rebirth of a

previous Reserve Force Squadron of the same designation that was also stationed aboard NAS JRB New Orleans. The original VR-54 flew the C-118 transport aircraft prior to being VR-54, Page 10

## VMR Belle Chasse Change of Command

By Mass Communication Specialist  
 1st Class John Hulle  
 The Currents' Staff

Marine Transport Squadron (VMR) Belle Chasse held a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans June 7. With the passing of the Marine Corps Flag, Lt. Col. Aaron Locher relieved Lt. Col. Michael Wallace as commanding officer.

Brig. Gen. Bradley James, commanding general, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, was the guest speaker for the event.

James lauded Wallace's leadership of the command and the unit's 5,100 hours flying in two years supporting

Marines in Europe and Africa. James also complemented the successful completion of six inspections during Wallace's time as commanding officer.

For Locher, James offered words of encouragement.

"Aaron, I haven't known you for long, but have no reservations that you'll do a great job. It's an outstanding time, a pleasure and honor to assume command in the Marine Corps. You have the talent and the support," James said.

Locher was commissioned in 1996 upon graduation from Florida State University with a degree in engineering. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star, Air Medal with Strike Flight Nu-



**Lt. Col. Aaron Locher, right, accepts the Marine Corps flag signifying the acceptance of command for VMR Belle Chasse during a change of command ceremony June 7, at NAS JRB New Orleans. Locher takes command from Lt. Col. Michael Wallace, who commanded the squadron for the past two years.**  
*Photo by MC2 Edward Guttierrez*

meral 8, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and gold star, Combat Action Ribbon,

and Humanitarian Assistance Medal. His previous assignment was with 4th Marine VMR, Page 12





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By Capt. Mark Sucato  
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

The Zika virus is a topic that continues to be front and center in the news and I want to assure you that installation leadership is fully-engaged on this issue, protecting you and your family.

A vital step in any fight is to learn all you can about your opponent. On pages 8-9 of this issue of The Currents we have provided pertinent facts regarding the Zika virus, a viral infection primarily spread by a bite from an infected mosquito. Typical symptoms include fever, conjunctivitis, muscle pain, rash, headache, and joint pain. At its very worst, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly and other birth defects.

Infection risk is reduced by taking measures to avoid mosquito bites, which are outlined in this issue.

Our approach at NAS JRB New Orleans is a robust, multi-tiered partnership between branch medical, public works, safety and the parish to monitor, assess and abate mosquito infestation. We are staying abreast of all guidance and alerts from the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Defense. I assure you we will continue to promptly provide this information to all hands using every available method.



On July 4th we will celebrate 240 years of independence as a nation recognizing when the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. Almost 100 years later in the Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln stated that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." I look forward to celebrating our Independence Day and hope you will join me in doing the same.

Finally, I had the pleasure recently to congratulate NAS JRB New Orleans Sailors as we frocked our shipmates to their next higher rank. For a commanding officer it is gratifying to see your people advance in their careers, to receive greater responsibility and authority. Congratulations to all of the newly frocked petty officers, their families, and those who have mentored, supported, and cared for them to get to this point. We should all take collective pride in their achievements.

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THE Currents

Vol. 27 No. 7

July 2016

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The next issue of The Currents will be published on Monday, August 1, 2016. Questions concerning content for publication are heartily encouraged and must be received at the Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), 400 Russell Ave., New Orleans, LA, 70143-5012, phone (504) 678-3260, by close of business on Friday, July 22, 2016.

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Naval Air Station JRB New Orleans

**Capt. Mark Sucato**

Commanding Officer



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# NRPDC Sailors Hold Change of Command Ceremony

By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class John Hulle  
The Currents' Staff

The Navy Reserve Professional Development Center (NRPDC) held a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans June 17, as Cmdr. Andrew McGinly relieved Cmdr. Matthew Jackson as commanding officer.

McGinly graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000 and earned his wings of gold from NAS Meridian, Miss., in November 2002. He has accumulated more than 2,000 flight hours and 150 carrier arrestments.

"To the Sailors, I'm honored to be able to lead you," said McGinly. "I look forward to meeting each one of you," said McGinly.

"I am certain you will have some challenges, but it will be worth it," said guest speaker Rear Admiral Eric Young, commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, to McGinly. "NRPDC's mission is placed in your hands. You have the expe-



**Cmdr. Andrew McGinly, commanding officer of NRPD, receives a command ashore pin from his wife, Elizabeth, during a change of command ceremony at NAS JRB New Orleans June 17. McGinly relieved Cmdr. Matthew Jackson during the event.**

*Photo by MC1 John Hulle*

rience and the support. You are the right person, at the right time for this command."

"I had the opportunity to walk around the command," said

Young. "The Sailors look great. The place looks great. It truly represents the command motto: Grasp the power of knowledge."

Young said Jackson had made

a significant and outstanding contribution to NRPD. "You've made this command better. That's the mark of a true leader," Young said.

During Jackson's speech, he thanked Young for his "leadership, support, mentorship and guidance. "Your leadership was a blessing."

"To the hard working men and women of NRPD - thank you," said Jackson. "The impact you make on a daily basis, I'm completely amazed about what you do and the pride and motivation you do it with."

NRPD is the sole training command that impacts the entire Navy Reserve. The command is composed of a staff of 46 instructors, facilitators, and support personnel and is committed to developing a smarter, better-educated Reserve Force through training available to anyone, anytime, anywhere.

The courses are designed to provide comprehensive instruction to active-duty and full-time support Navy members as well as Navy Reservists and civilian personnel in areas critical to Navy Reserve activities, whether on-site or as mobile training teams.

Jackson's next duty assignment is with Fleet Logistics Support Wing at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas.



**Congressman Steve Scalise, left is welcomed to NAS JRB New Orleans, June 2, by Cmdr. Rigel Pirrone, commanding officer of VFA-204. Scalise, who was on the base for an orientation tour of VFA-204, the River Rattlers, also met with the squadron's Sailors. Scalise is the current U. S. House of Representatives majority whip and representative for Louisiana's 1st congressional district.**

*Photo by MC2 Edward Guttierrez*



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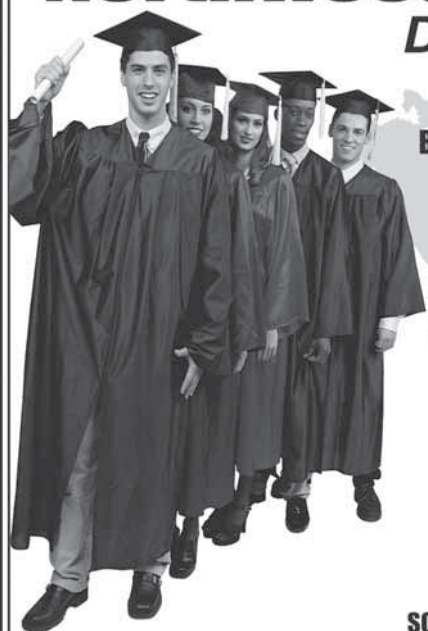
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# Change of Command Ceremony for New Orleans MEPS

By Tammy Prine  
The Currents' Staff

The Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La., is now under new command.

Army Maj. Tiffany Carlisle handed over command to Army Maj. Christine DeSaine, during a June 7 ceremony at the MEPS.

The ceremony was presided over by Army Lt. Col. Chad Vaughn, commander, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPCOM) and the St. Louis MEPS.

"I send a big thanks to Carlisle for the outstanding work here for MEPS New Orleans," said Vaughn. "With the group under her command I knew I never had to worry about anything. She has done a great job."

"This MEPS is a very dynamic place," he said. "The people who run things here take care of each other and their families as well as run this busy command."

The New Orleans MEPS processes approximately 5,200 personnel every year and enlists roughly 4,200 new military recruits. The 35 employees, 27 civilians and eight uniformed members, process between 30 and 40 applicants every day and send 15 to 20 to various basic training posts.

DeSaine says she is excited to be taking over at MEPS.

"Many thanks to Lt. Col. Vaughn for giving me the opportunity to command this station," she said. "I look forward to my assignment here and working with everyone in this great organization."

DeSaine's past assignments have taken her around the world and include the U.S. Army transportation Center in Fort Eustis, Va.; U.S. Army Garrison Youngs San Korea; the Pentagon; multiple duty stations in Germany; Sarajevo, Bosnia; one deployment to Iraq and numerous additional assignments in the continental United States.

DeSaine's military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal,

two Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement medals and various unit and service medals and ribbons.

Carlisle's next assignment is in Naples, Italy to serve as the executive officer of the U.S. Army NATO Brigade, Allied Forces South Battalion.

The New Orleans MEPS is one station in a network of 65 MEPS located throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The mission of the MEPS is to process individuals for enlistment or induction into the armed services, based on DOD-approved peacetime and mobilization standards.



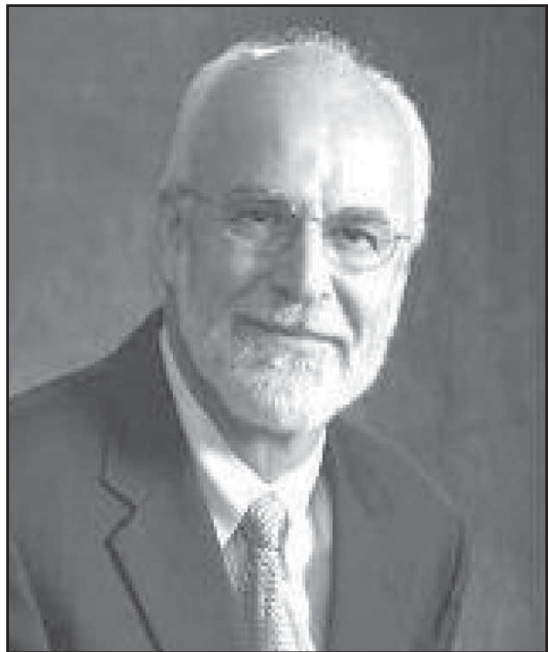
Army Lt. Col. Chad Vaughn, left, passes the MEPS flag to Army Maj. Christine DeSaine, signifying the change of command of the New Orleans station. The New Orleans MEPS has 35 military and civilian personnel who process up to 50 applicants each day for the armed forces.

Photo by Tammy Prine



Military members assigned to security at NAS JRB New Orleans are recognized for their action in apprehending a gate runner on the night of June 7. Pictured left to right: John Stokes, 377th TSC executive officer; Col. L. Wayne Magee Jr., 377th TSC chief of staff; MA3 Anthony Bruscino, NAS JRB; Sgt. Erika Dees, 377th TSC; MA2 Joshua Jackson, NAS JRB and Capt. Mark Sucato, NAS JRB commanding officer, pause for a photo after an awards ceremony June 14. Bruscino, Dees and Jackson were standing watch at the main gate when a man attempted to bypass security protocols. The trio's quick action, training and teamwork led to a quick and safe resolution.

Photo by MC1 John Hulle



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# Zika: NAS JRB Partners with Parish in the Fight

By Mass Communication  
Specialist 2nd Class Edward Gutierrez  
The Currents' Staff

It seems Americans constantly learn of new diseases threatening to either make their way to the United States or explode in the frequency with which they infect new hosts.

Ailments such as West Nile virus, Ebola virus, avian flu, mad cow disease, and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) have made their way into the national consciousness over the past few years. Now, a new threat has become a part of many Americans daily routine: the Zika virus.

"Unless you live in a cave, it's very hard to avoid hearing about Zika," said Capt. Mark Sucato, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans. "It's all over the media, depending on where you are in the world. The Navy and Marine Corps leadership is taking a close look at how best to deal with Zika."

Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the Aedes family of mosquitoes. People with the disease can have symptoms including mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days. There is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Links to other neurological complications are also being investigated. While Zika is primarily transmitted by mosquitoes, it can also be transmitted person-to-person through sexual intercourse.

The primary transmitters of Zika virus to people are the Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. These are the same

variety of mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fevers to humans. These mosquitoes usually bite during the day, most often in the early morning and late afternoon to evening.

## Local Potential Threat

According to Chris Denney of the Plaquemines Parish Mosquito Control Department, it is important for people to know is that the Aedes mosquitoes are not prevalent in Plaquemines Parish.

"The Zika virus is not an immediate threat to the people of Plaquemines Parish," said Denney. "But it's important to take a proactive stance to reduce the potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

The Aedes mosquitoes are not the type of mosquito that live or reproduce around

the natural bodies of water such as ditches or bayous that are so common in this area. This mosquito prefers to reproduce in stagnant pools of water that are often found near homes. Even a small amount of water left sitting inside a bucket or plastic pool can become a breeding ground for significant amounts of mosquitoes.

"Just a bottle cap full of water can produce huge numbers of these mosquitoes," said Denney.

Because these mosquitoes breed in standing pools of water, simply spraying for mosquitoes will not prevent the development of mosquito larvae. The Aedes mosquitoes have a range of only 1-3 miles away from the area from which they spawn. As a result, it is vital that residents

pay careful attention to areas where standing water may develop around their homes.

## Prevention at Home

Simple things such as turning over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use, discarding used tires and cleaning gutters frequently can help prevent the development of mosquitoes.

While much of the fight against Zika and its mosquito transmitters depend on maintenance around the home, both the parish

and NAS JRB New Orleans are working together to prevent the Aedes mosquito population from growing. Although, some of these efforts may not be readily apparent, residents should feel assured that they are in fact occurring. Many local residents may be used to seeing trucks traveling up and down local streets spraying chemicals to kill mosquitoes. While these trucks may be fairly ubiquitous off the installation, they are rare on base. Instead, according to

Denney, it is more efficient for the parish to spray aerially.

"We used to bring the trucks onto base," said Denney. "But the plane can spray the whole base in about 20 minutes."

NAS JRB New Orleans is also taking its own precautions to prevent Zika from establishing itself in the area. According to Lt. Cmdr. Micah Kiletico, NAS JRB's

public works officer, the installation is currently in the process of updating its Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP). The base's IPMP, established in 2009, is the overall pest management plan and outlines the roles and responsibilities of everyone on the base, including the commanding officer, the Public Works department, Environmental department and medical.

"The plan isn't specific to mosquitoes," said Kiletico. "It includes all of the pests we may deal with on the base such as raccoons or alligators, but Zika is a game changer."

The preventative medicine division of Naval Branch Health Clinic Belle Chasse is responsible for trapping mosquitoes, said Kiletico. These traps are currently being updated to specifically target the Aedes family of mosquito. In previous years, the number of female mosquitoes needed to trigger the public works department to take action to reduce the mosquito population was 25. Since the beginning of the Zika virus outbreak, the new IPMP calls for the threshold to be reduced to five. Once this threshold is met, the base is required to either hire a contractor to spray or partner with Plaquemines Parish to increase spraying. In addition, mosquito repellent sprays and lotions are available free of charge over the counter at medical for all active duty and Department of Defense employees.

"It's vital for everyone on base to know that we are actively involved in controlling the mosquito population," said Mike Sloane, NAS JRB safety manager. "Whether it's trapping or spraying, I want to tell everyone that we are actively engaged in reassuring the public that we have all the right testing in place to protect our people and their families."

For more information on Zika and its prevention visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>.

**Symptoms of Zika**

**Most people won't have symptoms or even know they are infected with the virus. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week.**

**The most common symptoms of Zika are**

Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes)

Fever

Joint Pain

Rash

CDC's Response to **ZIKA**

**PREGNANT?**  
Read this before you travel

**What we know about Zika**

- Zika can be spread from from a pregnant woman to her fetus.
- Infection during pregnancies is linked to birth defects.
- There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika.

Sexual transmission of Zika virus from a male partner is possible, so travelers should use condoms.

**Pregnant?**

- Do not travel to areas where Zika virus is spreading.
- If you must travel to these areas, talk to a doctor first.

**Trying to become pregnant?**

Before you travel, talk to your doctor about your plans to become pregnant and the risk of getting Zika.

**Your best protection**  
**Prevent mosquito bites**

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.**
- Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated items.**
- Stay in places with air conditioning or that use screens to keep out mosquitoes.**
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are overseas or outside and unable to protect yourself from mosquito bites.**
- Use EPA-registered insect repellents. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated for effectiveness.**

**How to prevent**  
**mosquito breeding sites**  
**in and around your home**

- Clogged gutters provide a breeding ground.**
- Monitor areas around down spouts.**
- Keep lawns cut short.**
- Dispose of unused objects that can accumulate water.**
- Change water in pet bowls often.**

**Travel Notice**

CDC has issued a travel notice (Level 2-Practice Enhanced Precautions) for people traveling to areas where Zika virus is spreading.

**For a current list of places with Zika virus, see CDC's Travel Health Notices:**  
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>

This notice follows reports in Brazil of microcephaly and other poor pregnancy outcomes in babies of mothers who were infected with Zika virus while pregnant.



# DECA Scholarship Awarded to SLU Nursing Student

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Edward Gutierrez  
The Currents' Staff

The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) awarded Morgan Miller, a nursing student at Southeastern Louisiana University, in Hammond, La., with a \$2,000 scholarship during a ceremony at the commissary aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans June 14.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created in recognition of the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community. The program is funded by manufacturers and suppliers

that provide products and services for commissaries around the globe. Since the beginning of the program in 2001, DECA has awarded more than 8,700 scholarships totaling approximately \$14 million dollars.

"I was really excited to find out I was awarded the scholarship," said Miller. "Every little bit helps. It helps me help my parents and myself. Any sort of help means a lot when it comes to tuition and fees and things like that. I'm very blessed to say I'm a military child."

Miller was selected as the recipient of the scholarship by Scholarship Managers, a firm that provides professional assistance to associations, corporations, foundations and individuals in the delivery of financial aid to qualified and deserving students. She was se-

lected based upon her overall application, including grades, community involvement and an essay on the topic of obesity in the military. The scholarship provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other school related expenses.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization responsible for building comfort homes near military medical centers. The foundation bears all costs of the program so that every dollar donated goes toward scholarships.

Miller's father, Mike, served 22 years in the Louisiana Air National Guard.

"Morgan works hard in all the things she does," said Mike Miller. "She takes the initiative



**Morgan Miller, left, is presented with a certificate commemorating her awarding of a \$2000 scholarship by the Scholarship for Military Children Program and its sponsor Acosta. She was awarded the scholarship by Clarence Harvey, DECA store director at NAS JRB New Orleans and Beverly Jones, a representative from Acosta.**

*Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez*

to apply and writes the essays the military standards that I and keeps her grades up. I learned and we carry on at think she's learned that through home."

# History Comes to Life at Navy Exchange

By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class John Hulle  
The Currents' Staff

World War II reenactors visited customers at the Navy Exchange aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans June 10 to give visitors insight into the period.

The National World War II Museum's reenactors, collectively known as the Living History Corps, are local volunteers who share their wealth of information and stories with patrons at the museum. Despite the hot and humid weather, the volunteers clad in authentic uniforms, set up a command post (CP) like those used during the battle of Normandy.

"We were asked by the exchange to come out and do what we normally do at the museum," said Frank Ratermann, a volunteer with more

than 20 years with the Living History Corps. "It's an opportunity for the visitor to see what the guys look like up close, and what the gear looks like up close, because everything at the museum is behind glass. Today we are just doing it for the military," he said.

The volunteer's uniforms, accessories and even a vintage Jeep are all authentic pieces from World War II. They also showcased many weapons that were used during the war, including a Colt 1911, M1 Garand rifle, M1A1 carbine, M1 Thompson Submachine Gun and the Browning M1919 Light Machine Gun.

"None of this belongs to the museum. It all belongs to us. Every three weeks we go to the museum and set up a CP just like they did at Normandy 70 years ago," said Ratermann, whose father served in the Navy and was in Hawaii during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"We go through a great deal of research and do everything we can to make sure we get this right. It goes way beyond a hobby," he said.

The reenactors this day were representing the 1st Infantry Division, often referred to as the Big Red One, in reference to the unit's shoulder patch. The First Infantry Division was part of the first wave of troops that assaulted German Army defenses on Omaha Beach on D-Day. The unit is also the oldest continuously serving division in the U.S. Army.

"I had two uncles that served in World War II. I like to be able to tell their stories," said John Fortmayer, a Living History Corps volunteer. "The response has been good. People that stop by here can relate because they have used the more recent version of these weapons."

"This is great. It's a good ed-



**Volunteers from the National World War II Museum's World War II Living History Corps and the operations manager for the NEX pause to have a photo taken aboard NAS JRB New Orleans June 10. In remembrance of the Normandy Invasion, the volunteers came to base to share knowledge about day-to-day lives of soldiers and the broader lessons of World War II. From left: John Fortmayer, Brian Fleming, Frank Ratermann, Mike Gonzales and Heath Osterberg.**

*Photo by MC1 John Hulle*

ucational effect and I want to keep the history alive and give something back to the customers," said Heath Osterberg, operations manager for the

NEX who organized the event. "I am proud to be able to be out here and serve the military as part of the Navy Exchange. I love it."

## VR-54: continued from Page 1

decommissioned in the early 1980s when the Navy introduced the C-9 transport aircraft.

VR-54 was formally established on June 1, 1991, to provide tactical/heavy lift transport capability to support

fleet requirements. The squadron currently operates four Lockheed C-130T aircraft. Because of the massive size of the C-130T and the immediate response capability needed by the fleet, VR-54 is staffed with 146 active-duty

and full-time support personnel as well as 81 selected Reservists. In any given year, VR-54 will fly more than 4,000 hours to support worldwide logistics missions and transport several million pounds of cargo and thousands

of passengers.

"The Navy C-130 Hercules takes a lot of work and manpower to keep going. Which is why I am always so amazed by the work ethic and sacrifice by both my active-duty and reserve Revelers," said Lawson.

He continued his remarks with an extended appreciation to the VR-54 family.

"Your heroic example is seen and acknowledged by your new commanding officer and I am proud to be called a Reveler."



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# Defenders Challenge: NAS JRB Competes with Sister Services

By Mass Communication  
Specialist 1st Class John Hulle  
The Currents' Staff

The Defenders Challenge regatta sailed Memorial Day in Lake Pontchartrain, hosted by the Southern Yacht Club (SYC) of New Orleans. Sailors assigned to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans took the opportunity to compete with their sister services.

"The Defenders Challenge is a regatta that Southern Yacht Club started in 2011 and hosts every Memorial Day to recognize and honor the men and women, and their families, who serve in our country's armed forces," said Cherrie Felder, event coordinator and regatta chair. "It was a wonderful day! Except for the fact we

were not able to sail as many races as we usually do because of the weather, it was a memorable day."

The event began with breakfast followed by a flag ceremony. The sailors then manned their Flying Scots, a popular 19-foot sailing dinghy, for the qualifying series. Eleven teams participated in the race: one from the Air Force, two each from the Army and Navy, and three each from the Coast Guard and Marine Corps.

"There is no way to explain how much fun that was. I plan to do it next year," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Joshua McKnight, a crew member for the Navy team from NAS JRB New Orleans. He said despite light winds during the qualifying races, they still were able to finish three races before taking a

break for lunch.

"It was definitely a learning experience," said McKnight, who had never sailed before the regatta. Despite McKnight's lack of experience, boat skipper and NAS JRB New Orleans Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Sucato was able to lead the boat and teach his crew how to tack, gybe and trim sails as they competed in the light-shifty winds. "The captain is a very good teacher. He made everything as simple as he could," said McKnight.

In the afternoon final series, each service branch was represented by their top skipper and crews. Two races were completed before inclement weather forced the race to be called off. The Coast Guard remained champions for the fifth year in a row. In a tie-breaker for second, the Army defeated



On Memorial Day, Capt. Mark Sucato, Lt. Striker Brown and ET2 Joshua McKnight, all assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, represent the Navy during the 2016 Southern Yacht Club's Defenders Challenge regatta in New Orleans. The regatta was open to military members where each team consisted of a skipper and two crewmembers from a single branch of service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard). *Courtesy photo*

the Air Force, who took third. There was also a tie-breaker

for fourth place, with the Marine Corp beating the Navy.

## VMR: continued from Page 1

Aircraft Wing where he provided manpower management and security protocol direction for the command spanning 29 sites in 18 states for more than 7,500 personnel.

"Thank you, 4th MAW staff, for your guidance. Thank you for who you are and what you do," Locher said. "I look forward

to serving you."

During Wallace's farewell speech he thanked everyone and the efforts of the Marines that put the event together.

"There are a lot of people to thank... Everyone that helped me get here. Thanks to the VMR Marines for making this a very nice event," he said

"I pride myself on taking care of Marines. It's the Marines that take care of the mission and do the hard work. There could not be a better group of Marines. It made my job easy and a whole lot of fun," said Wallace.

VMR Belle Chasse, established in 1985, is a Marine Corps reserve squadron, com-

posed of active-duty and Reserve personnel. The squadron's mission is to transport high-priority passengers and cargo to, within and between theaters of war.

When not deployed, VMR Belle Chasse receives operational tasking from the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing as well as the

Joint Operational Support Airlift Center, the airlift branch of the U.S. Transportation Command. This ensures the squadron is trained and ready to complete its wartime mission in support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force or Marine Corps Service Component Commander.

## Crescent City Physicians is pleased to welcome **Susan R. Hemelt, M.D.** Gynecology



After 23 years of OB/GYN service on the Westbank, **Dr. Susan Hemelt** left her practice three years ago to work with the United States Army in Heidelberg, Germany. She is now back in practice with Crescent City Physicians and providing gynecologic care at their Westbank office.

Dr. Hemelt and her colleagues at the Westbank office – OB/GYNs Drs. William von Almen and E. Quinn Peeper – accept most major insurances, including Tricare, and are currently accepting new patients.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the office at **504.367.6971**.

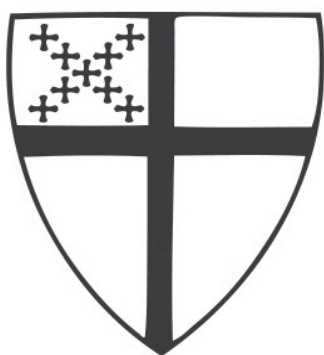
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# Respond to Tragedy with Prayers and Compassion

By Lt. Cmdr. Shawn Turpin  
NAS JRB Chaplain



Chaplain's  
Corner

NAS JRB Base Chapel  
Catholic Mass  
Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and  
Tuesday-Friday at 11:30 a.m.  
Protestant Service  
Sunday at 11 a.m.

What in the world is going on? Tragedy is now a household word: Rape at Stanford University; suicide on the rise; unexpected illness and/or death; motorcycle accidents; sporting match violence; night club shooting. Where does it end?

As an emergency medical technician for 13 years as well as a hospital chaplain assigned to the emergency room, I responded to many crises and incidents. Coming face-to-face with death and tragedy was a

normal day for me.

But facing tragedy was NOT a normal day for every single victim, friend, family member, and community. Those affected asked very hard questions: Why us? How did it happen? Where is God? Does anybody care?

These questions cannot be answered adequately. Nevertheless, there is HOPE available for you. You may not want to hear

it. For sure, it does take time to provide some small level of healing but from a spiritual perspective, God does not promise life to be a bed of roses or to be free from trials. He never promised the world would be filled with perfect people who always care about you.

However, what God did promise is his presence and care in the midst of trouble. He promises to walk beside you in time of trial. Psalm 23, so often quoted at bedsides, reveals God's peace that he offers to all who look to Him for strength. Furthermore, there are people around you who care. It is im-

portant to cultivate those relationships now, so that when tragedy happens, you have an already built-in network of people who are genuine.

For those of you responding to the tragedy of others, I have a few words of encouragement. So often, leaders and/or caregivers become overwhelmed. We care too much. We invest in the lives of our people and sometimes get hurt. If this has happened to you, you understand all too well. We then have tendency to keep our distance next time or perhaps we think the person should "deal with it" and move on. Sometimes well

intentioned people state "I know exactly how you feel" which is never true. Or they give advice. Or they make it political by focusing on the failures of a person or organization. However, as a caregiver or friend, the only thing you need to do is to be genuine and BE PRESENT. You don't have to say much. Simply be available. They cannot be fixed. They need to grieve. They need to process. Just walk with them though the journey and be a friend.

Blessings,  
Chaps

## Sailor Frockings at NAS JRB

### NAS JRB New Orleans

AE1 Cory Churchwell  
AM1 Jonathan Vanderspeck  
AS1 Jerry Williams  
ET1 Aaron Beckwith  
ET1 Daniel Sharp  
MA1 Travis Presler  
AC2 Andrew Craddock  
AC2 Roman Nevolin  
AE2 Joel Taylor  
MA2 Juan Alba  
MA2 Arthur Kennedy  
ABH3 Aprylle Albert  
AC3 Gregory Rauch  
AC3 Genkie Stoutamire  
AC3 Jacob Wolfe  
AME3 Dylan Deryp  
ATO3 Matthew Crews  
MA3 Alexandra Cliff  
MA3 Erick Naegeli  
YN3 Ryan Lawson

### Aviation Support Divion

LS1 Sarvain Cook  
LS2 Randy Lee  
LS2 Theresa Rochester

### Fleet Logistics Squadron (VR) 54

AM1 Tyler Berry  
AM1 Matthew Davis  
LS1 Kevin Loudriat  
AD2 David Engling  
AM2 William Smith  
AT2 James Murphy  
AWF2 Kameron Chumlesoltani  
AWF2 Kyle Ericksen  
CS2 James Gridley  
AD3 Dallas Curwick  
AD3 Arielle Dukes  
AD3 Dana Miller  
AM3 Joseph Harper  
AME3 Arthur Yang  
AT3 Austin Burford  
AZ3 Camerin Williams  
LS3 Alexison Farria  
PR3 Scott Intondi

YN3 Estevan Mataloza

### Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Site New Orleans

AE1 Melissa Adams  
AS1 Brandy Piser  
AE2 Dwayne Bonam  
AE2 Jonathan Carroll  
AM2 Joshua Morrison  
AS2 James Miller  
AS2 Anna Pedregon  
AZ2 Vincent Bania  
PR2 Calvinekia Clark  
PR2 Justin Tague  
AD3 Matu Bundy  
AD3 Joseph Spivey  
AM3 Joshua Zamudio  
AS3 Solomon Thao  
AT3 Steven Vore  
AZ3 Jasmine Christopher

### Joint Reserve Intelligence Center

IS1 Steve Serfess

### Navy Air Logistics Office

IT3 Sarah Parsons

### Navy Operational Support Center

AG1 Mindie Renteria  
HM1 Joseph Bailey  
HM1 David Noto  
HM1 John Teal  
BM2 Robert Mikulskis  
EO2 Jordan Antoine  
ET2 Taylor Weber  
MM2 Jacob Musser  
GM3 Judah Gonzalez  
HM3 Jamar Amos  
HM3 Tyler Garlick  
HT3 Denzel Dawson  
MM3 Roderick Thomas

### Navy Recruiting Command

EN1 Zachary Hoover  
HM1 Lakicha Ellzey  
NC1 James Leflore

NC1 Ragan Robinson  
NC1 Jamire Wimberly

### Navy Reserve Professional Development Center

YN1 Diana McFadden  
YN3 Raven White

### Navy Supply/Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville

AS3 Wayne Ndungu

### Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204

AD1 Victor Roque  
AM1 John Gumiran  
AO1 Robert Alvizo  
AO1 James Wheelis  
AT1 Donald Yates  
CS1 Shenea Mathews  
YN1 James Callis  
AE2 Garrett Crossley  
AT2 Zachary Hale  
CS2 Loreal Bibbs  
IT2 Lester Harris  
YN2 Christy Chong  
AD3 Randall Adams  
AD3 Evan Baldwin  
AD3 Timothy Gauthier  
AE3 Zachary Truitt  
AE3 Ronrikas Wilson  
AME3 Amaury Garcia-Rodriguez  
AM3 William Pruett  
AME3 William Webb  
AO3 Terrica Channells  
AO3 William Hightower  
AO3 William Posey  
AS3 Christopher Kalter  
AT3 Vincent Bochsler  
AT3 Brynнан Cooper  
AZ3 Gilbert Sanchez  
LS3 Tashea Turner



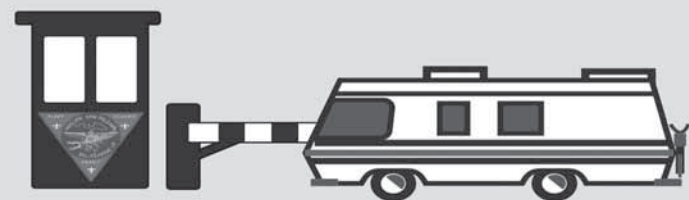
The Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club (GKMMC) Chapter 105 is hosting their annual Day of Knights poker run on July 9. This is Southeast Louisiana's Longest Poker Run (165 miles). Proceeds from the run benefit the Metropolitan Center for Women and Children.

The run starts and stops at Indian Motorcycle of New Orleans, 10567 Airline Highway in St. Rose, La.

Registration for the run begins at 9 a.m. The first bike out will be at 10 a.m. and the last bike in by 4 p.m.

The registration fee for the rider is \$30 and \$25 for the passenger. The event will include music, a fifty/fifty raffle, auctions and prizes. For more information or to register send an email to Sue Freese at: sue\_rae31@yahoo.com or visit the group's website at: <http://www.gk105mmc.org>.

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The joint military event is set for Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Building 492, NAS JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La. All military spouses and servicemembers are welcome. Military or dependent ID cards are required.

**Donations will be accepted from everyone. All  
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*From, Sam and Vicki Polo*

*Jerry Forstater, Norm Umholtz and Ashleigh Vasquez*





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